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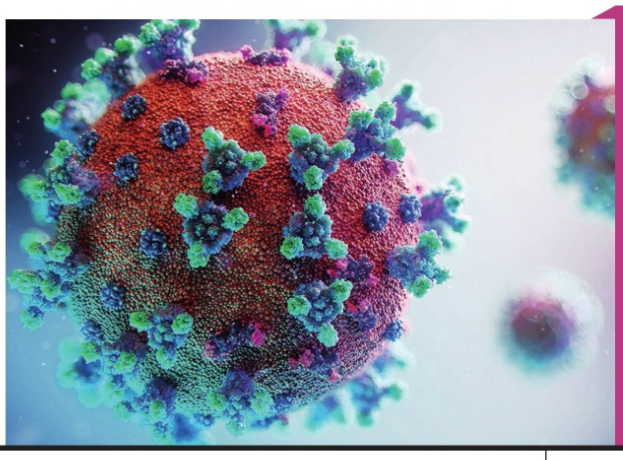
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 16 | Humidity 41% Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later Sensex 60,223 | Nifty 17,925 | Gold 49,250 | Silver 62,300 | Dollar 74.36 | Euro 84.28 | GBP 100.74

TEEN SPIRIT

We look at some of the major factors that cause vaccine hesitancy among teens

PAGE 3



149 OMICRON CASES MILD AND RECOVERING

Community spread suspected in clusters; many with no travel history

PAGE 5

Another lockdown may devastate reviving economy post first and second waves of pandemic, say industry experts urging govt to stop short of move

LIFE LINE

Why 'selective restrictions', asks Opposition

Sridhar Vivan and Hamza Irfan Qazi
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A day after the imposition of weekend curfew, the move has drawn criticism not just from opposition parties but even the cabinet ministers. Minister for rural development and Panchayat Raj KS Eshwarappa said it was not a good move to extend the weekend curfew across the state: "I have been receiving a lot of complaints against the move. If weekend curfew is imposed in Bengaluru, I am fine, but it should not be extended everywhere. I will raise the issue during Thursday's cabinet."

The weekend curfew and fresh curbs banning political yatras have hit the Congress party hard as the outfit had planned a padayatra from Mekedatu. Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president DK Shivakumar said he won't back off: "We will follow guidelines; a team of 100 doctors is ready. The BJP government had invoked the Disaster Management Act against me and other legislators. In contrast, the BJP leaders have carried out protest marches. The Prime Minister himself is taking part in rallies. Why impose restrictions on us?"

In fact, Shivakumar went a step ahead and termed the weekend curfew "BJP curfew and BJP lockdown." He alleged that as BJP leaders were finding it tough to continue their politics, they were imposing fresh restrictions.

The weekend curfew has put various industries on tenterhooks. Industry bodies feel this is a precursor before imposing a total lockdown as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> **"A lockdown will adversely affect MSMEs. Demonetisation, GST, two waves of covid-19 were terrible for MSMEs**
>
> — Jacob Crasta, former president, Karnataka Small Scale Industries' Association

Service Request

Service sector in Bengaluru clearly unhappy with curfew as BM found out

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Members and office bearers of the hospitality industry in the city - association heads of hotels, restaurants and bars, lodges, resorts, travel and tourism agencies, event management firms, and theme parks - were unhappy and up in arms against the night and weekend curfews which they called unscientific and a move that does not impact the spread of latest covid-19 variants.

Karunakar Hegde, secretary of the bar association, requested the government to withdraw the weekend curfew as weekends are when bars and restaurants get maximum business. Since there is a night curfew in place during weekdays, business is hit hard as most of the sales of liquor happen during the night time, according to Hegde.

President of the Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association (BBHA) PC Rao recalled the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan in a recent television interview stating that countries like India should formulate science-based policies for curbing the spread of the virus and that there is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Dance show

Taking inspiration from the grand architectural marvels of southern India, particularly the Vijayanagara empire, Sthavara-Jangama explores the amorphous relationships that us humans have with landscapes and built architectures that surround us. By placing live actions of the dancers and musicians in chosen areas of the venue and digitally-processed moving images created by German artist projected on the walls, this site-inspired piece promises to be a time-travel experience for spectators. **Where: Bangalore International Centre (BIC) No. 7, 4th Main Rd, Stage 2, Domlur; When: January 7, 6:30 PM; Ticket Price: Rs 300 onwards**

02 Remembering Dr Rashid Jahan

Online Theatre Festival - IV managed and organised by the Theatre Management Company exhibits Urdu Mehfil on Dr. Rashid Jahan (The bad girl in Urdu literature). Jahan was the first Urdu feminist writer who wrote openly on how women of our society are suppressed. The session would be taken by Annie Zaidi, Sikandar Khan, and Gargee Nandy.
Where: Online. Details: +91-7597523702; When: January 7, 7 pm; Ticket price: Rs 99

03 Learn composting

Learn the incredible art of composting where nature shows us how recycling is done in this workshop! Learn about the different types of composting, what to keep in mind while choosing a composter, how does one really get started with aerobic composting and some simple tips to keep in mind for beginners.
Where: Online. Details: insider.in; When: January 8, 11 AM

Get jabbed, take the exam

CISCE asks schools to make sure students are vaccinated before the Class 10,12 exams

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KAUSHIK JN

With Class 10 and 12 exams scheduled, students are being encouraged to get vaccinated

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has asked schools to ensure that their students are vaccinated before exams. According to the latest circular issued by CISCE, chief executive Gerry Arathoon said, "As per the Union Health Ministry's guidelines, all children within the 15 to 18 age group are eligible for vaccination. This is a heartening and positive step in the right direction for students in class 10 and 12. This will ensure their safety and protection while leaving the safe confines of their homes to travel to school to attend classes or for practical work or to appear for the second semester examinations. CISCE has advised heads of affiliated schools to encourage parents and guardians of their schools to get their wards vaccinated at the earliest."

Meanwhile, ICSE's second semester board exams are likely to be conducted in March or April 2022. The exams will most probably be conducted in a subjective format. As of now, the exact exam dates are not out. However, they are expected to be out by February.

Students must keep checking the official website to stay updated with the exam dates. If covic cases remain within control, offline exams will be preferred. But, in case the situation is not favorable, CISCE can opt for MCQ-based online exams.

CISCE has already reduced the syllabus of various subjects for class 10 exams. Students can follow the official website to check the updated syllabus to begin preparation. In the case that the exams are conducted in the subjective format students must practice a lot. With the semester one exam in the MCQ format, students have forgotten the practice of answer writing. Writing answers accurately and within the time limit will help students excel in their board exams. Managing time is the biggest challenge that students can face during the exams.

> **"CISCE has advised heads of affiliated schools to encourage parents and guardians of their schools to get their wards vaccinated at the earliest**
> – Gerry Arathoon, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations

Fake info alert

The Central Board of Secondary Education has warned the public against fake information circulating on online platforms about its second term board exams for classes 10 and 12.

"It has been noticed that a few online media platforms are circulating incorrect information and confusing audiences, using expressions such as Breaking News about major exam pattern changes in classes 10 and 12, second term board exams. It is clarified in the interest of students that the board had announced the changes in exam pattern in July last year. First term exams have already been completed and the format of exams for the second term will also be as announced last year. Public is therefore advised to only check the official website for latest and authentic information," the board said in an advisory. The exams for the first term were conducted during November-December last year.

'Shift to online'

A day after the fresh notification was issued for closure of schools from grade one to nine, the education department issued a circular on Wednesday stating that offline classes will continue for class 10 with strict covid appropriate behaviour in place, while the other grades will switch to online mode until January 19.
(With Inputs From Agencies)

Covid heroes gear up for the days ahead

Organisations that played a major role in delivering essential supplies to the needy have started prepping for the third wave. BM spoke to a few of these individuals and the organisations they represent to understand the ground-level situation.

As of January 4, the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) has reached 2.8 per cent with the city contributing towards 83 per cent of the state's cases. Stricter curbs are expected to fall in place in the coming days.

"We have started asking our connections to share information regarding the availability of hospital beds. So far, we have been unable to get any insight. We need to contact the concentrator distributors and check the availability of the stock," said Padmini Ray Murray, founder of Oxygenblr.

She added that they were not yet aware of which Covid resources will be in high demand this time. She also expressed concern that there was an absence of information about the functionality of helpline numbers.

KAUSHIK JN

BBMP on January 3 announced the setting up of control rooms in all the eight zones that will address all queries pertaining to Covid-19. "We will be providing Twitter insights from the second wave to state health authorities and collaborating with other volunteer groups in case of an oxygen crisis. Currently, transmission rates are high, but hospitalisation rates are extremely low as the Omicron variant seems to be mild. We will know if this changes in the next one-two weeks," said Nick from Peak Bengaluru. "Some calls for admission have just started but we do not see high mortality yet. We have people who have done work on oxygen supply, cylinders and concentrators, they will spring back once calls happen," said Tanveer Ahmed from Mercy Mission. "We would like to see how the government sets up a transparent hospital booking system and a covid care centre for the mild and asymptomatic cases. But what we have observed is that the middle class has been burdened with covid for the past two years," he added.

Another Covid-hero, Saqib Idrees, noted there might be a spike in testing leading to delay in getting test reports. "The main challenge is setting up testing machines. Now you can get a report in 12 hours; but, if the spike increases, the report could be delayed by two days, leading to delayed hospitalisation of patients," said Idrees. **— Melvin Mathew**

Teen spirit

We look at some of the major factors that cause vaccine hesitancy among teens

KAUSHIK JN

Teenagers are being vaccinated since January 3

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As teens in the state have started getting vaccine jabs, child rights workers and activists say misinformation and fears seem to be clouding the teenagers' minds. While for boys, it's mostly peer pressure, some girls hold on to fears of erratic periods.

The state government had announced covid-19 vaccination for those between ages 15-18 from January 3. But the process of getting teens completely vaccinated might be an uphill task.

On the one hand, these children seem to have barely any choice in the matter and on another, they seem to be not equipped with adequate information on the subject. However, half-truths and misinformation propagated through social media have found their way into the children's minds.

"Among the adolescent youth, there is an objection from girls. They are worried that their periods will get erratic after taking vaccinations. Boys are worried that their existing health conditions could get worse over time," said Rajendran Prabhakar, Executive director at Maarga. Social activists note that this fear is also due to a lack of awareness on periods and they are suggesting these students visit doctors to address these issues.

In a bid to reach 100 per cent vaccination of adolescents, Maarga is also planning to conduct a house-to-house survey in 22 slums in Koramangala and Jayanagar. Now that schools have been closed for all classes with an exception of the 10th and 12th standard, vaccine hesitancy is expected to increase further. "We were attempting to vaccinate those outside schools but with the new situation we might have to expand our radius," he added.

Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust said negative impression given by parents and media portrayal of adverse effects of vaccination also could have a role to play. "With schools returning online, parents are complaining about children showing disinterest in getting vaccinated," Rao said.

> **"Girls tended to be more accepting of our education than boys. Boys remained stubborn about their notions due to peer pressure**
>
> –Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust

He added that children are primarily concerned about swelling and pain in the arms, headache, stomach pain and developing a fever. There are also myths surrounding existing cold symptoms with an increased likelihood of contracting covid-19 after vaccination. Rao notes that herd mentality is a prevalent factor in making decisions about vaccinations.

NGOs that are countering the vaccine hesitancy in teens with counselling say they are correlating any untoward unrelated incident with the vaccine. "Vaccine only supports the overall health but parents say that vaccines are unnecessary for teens. With the media constantly portraying teenagers as the less-vulnerable group, they feel it's a redundant process to vaccinate healthy individuals," added Prabhakar.

Rao said they were counselling students online to bust the myths. "Girls tended to be more accepting of our education than boys. Boys remained stubborn about their notions due to peer pressure. If this becomes a prominent issue, we will conduct group counselling with the help of schools," added Rao.

Activists are hoping to change the mindset of these students by showcasing model examples of peers who have been vaccinated.

For travellers to and from Goa

In view of the recent surge of covid cases in Goa, the following special surveillance measures are notified by Karnataka. All arrivals from State of Goa into Karnataka:

Negative RT-PCR certificate not older than 72 hours (3 days) shall be compulsorily produced by the passengers travelling on flight, bus, train or personal transport, and entering Karnataka. The same is also applicable for passengers boarding connecting flights from Goa. Airlines shall issue boarding passes only to the passengers carrying the certificates. Similarly Railway authorities shall be responsible for ensuring that all passengers travelling by trains from Goa to Karnataka carry negative RT-PCR certificates. For all the passengers travelling by bus originating from Goa, bus conductors shall be directed to ensure passengers have the certificates.

Cop tests Covid+; station sanitised

Around 60 police staffers including home guards attached to the Byatarayanapura police station in West Division, on Wednesday, had to undergo RT-PCR tests after a police officer tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday. All of them have been asked to isolate themselves and maintain physical distancing until their results come out on Thursday, a police officer said. Soon after the officer tested positive, the Byatarayanapura police station was sanitised and a few other stations in the west division were also sanitised as part of daily procedures that were carried out during the second wave of Covid. "We have instructed our men to take utmost care when interacting with complainants. We will also carry out regular sanitisation exercises," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Division) said.

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Case for not imposing lockdown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the cases start spiraling. Memories of the last time Bengaluru was shut down for prolonged periods still linger. With the recently declared weekend curfew, one can't help but wonder if we are returning to such a time. Industry associations warned about the repercussions on workers and the industries if the city returns to a lockdown. The last two years have not been good for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). A hike in the price of raw materials, increased taxes, labour shortage and disrupted production schedule have severely crippled industries.

Declaring a lockdown would be like shooting an animal that is already on its last leg. "Lockdown will adversely affect MSMEs. Demonetisation, GST and the two waves of covid-19 were terrible for MSMEs. When you have a patient just discharged from the ICU, sending that person back to the ICU will surely cause his death. After so many challenges, MSMEs are trying hard to survive. At this moment, the government should not declare a lockdown," said Jacob Crasta, former president of Karnataka Small Scale Industries' Association (KASSIA).

"We will face difficulties paying the employees and rent. During the first lockdown, we supported many workers financially out of our own pockets but we have taken a beating since then. Doing so again will not be possible," said Shivakumar R, secretary of Peenya industries' association. Payments to MSMEs may get delayed due to logistical issues and other reasons if a lockdown is declared.

"Many people take advantage of the situation and use the lockdown as an excuse for not paying dues. This has happened before and is bound to happen again," Shivakumar added.

Supply lines are bound to be affected if a lockdown is declared as we head towards the end of the financial year; suppliers are getting ready to dispatch their goods. Supply line issues were the reason behind massive hikes in prices of goods around the globe in 2021. If supply is affected again this year, the cost of goods in Bengaluru and across India is bound to increase further. Paying GST and other taxes is going to be a challenge for MSMEs once production and transportation of goods are affected. That will in turn make revenue collection a challenge this year for government agencies.

"When large industries shut down, the effect on the supply chain is huge. Already they have increased the raw material costs from 40% to 140%. They missed out on payments during the first and second waves, and now MSMEs are paying the price. This is a dangerous move. Government should wake up, immediately reduce customs duty and allow people to import," said Crasta.

Testing has been intensified in the city

A lockdown may cause another migrant crisis like the one we witnessed in 2020, as migrant workers in Bengaluru and across the country make long journeys back to their hometowns as work becomes unavailable. This may in turn cause a labour shortage which industrial associations are really worried about. MSMEs are already operating at 50% of the workforce they had pre-covid and many faced a challenge in acquiring labour after the first lockdown. Another lockdown could trigger another labour crisis which would only aggravate supply line issues.

Health minister Dr K Sudhakar, however, defended the weekend curfew. On Wednesday, Bengaluru recorded 3,605 cases while the state's tally was at 4,246 cases. Experts estimated the cases may breach the 10k mark in Bengaluru within five to six days. The minister recommended caution for the next four to six weeks: "As we have observed worldwide, it is declining in five to six weeks. This wave will not last for too long, like in the first and second waves, which extended three to four months."

Weekend curfew guidelines

Movement of individuals is strictly prohibited between Friday 8:00 pm to Monday 5:00 am, except for essential and emergency services. All state and central government offices and autonomous bodies, corporations, etc., dealing with emergency, essential services and covid-19 containment and management duties shall be fully functional and officers/personnel of the same shall be allowed unrestricted movement. All public parks will be closed.

All the industries including IT are exempted from the restriction of curfew and their employees are allowed movement to and fro on producing valid ID card. Patients and attendants/persons requiring emergency attention, eligible people intending to take vaccination, shall be allowed movement with minimal proof. Shops dealing with food, groceries, fruits and vegetables, meat and fish, dairy and milk booths, and animal fodder shall be allowed. Street vendors are allowed.

Public Distribution System shops are allowed. Home delivery of all items shall be encouraged 24x7 to minimise movement of individuals outside homes. Restaurant and eateries shall be allowed only for take away and home delivery. Movement of trains and air travel are permitted. Movement of public transport, private vehicles and taxis to and from airports, railway stations and bus terminals/stops/stands is allowed for facilitating movement of passengers by air, rail and road. The movement will be allowed only on displaying valid travel documents/tickets and strictly adhering to covid appropriate behaviour (CAB). Marriages are permitted involving not more than 200 people in open spaces and 100 people in closed places adhering to CAB.

Why service sector in B'luru is unhappy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

no science behind night curfews in the country when it comes to tackling the spread of covid-19 variants.

The policies should be formulated with evidence-based measures, Swaminathan reiterated in her interview, Rao said adding 'there is no scientific proof that due to night curfews and weekend curfews, covid-19 numbers have come down'.

Managing director of Rashi Eco Tourism resort, Ramesh, said, in the pretext of the third wave of covid-19, the government is finishing off hoteliers, resort owners and the tourism sector as a whole: "We are not being considered at all when decisions are taken," he said.

"We have enough experience from the two waves of the pandemic; is it necessary to impose the same kind of restrictions time and again? The first lockdown was okay, as no one had the experience and it was a complete lockdown; the second wave followed immediately and it has also passed and the vaccinations have also been carried out in a magnanimous way in the state and the country. Why would covid-19 start only in the month of December? This is budget allocating time, and incidentally, all variants will become active now, and during the month of March, when the allocation is being used up, it peaks, as funds need to get transferred here. The allocation ends in June-July and subsequently the pandemic wave ends too. We are observing the same trend over the past two years, and it shall repeat this year too. Hence it is difficult to ascertain whether it is a budget virus or it is real," Ramesh wondered.

WHO, after the cardiologist's tweets, stressed that Omicron is not just a seasonal cold virus, and that it could be fatal in sections of the population

According to Rao, the 50% seating capacity, the night and weekend curfew are totally unscientific and this will adversely affect a large number of employees in the service sector including those working in hotels, bars, restaurants, resorts, and other tourist spots.

Rao quoted prominent scientists and doctors: "The mortality rate is considerably low according to a cardiologist, who is the medical director at the Los Angeles Heart Specialists Hospital. He warned against overreaction and over-reach by governmental agencies and has suggested countries to not test for Omicron and instead focus their resources on psychological and financial assistance to people. The US based cardiologist claimed Omicron is actually a vaccine that the vaccine manufacturers could not make, and in a matter of time, a large population in the world will be naturally vaccinated by Omicron infection," Rao said, quoting sections of the United States broadcast media.

However, the World Health Organisation (WHO), after the cardiologist's tweets, stressed that Omicron is not just a seasonal cold virus, and that it could be fatal in sections of the population and warned to exercise caution and restraint.

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Rough and tough

Marathahalli

"Driving on Tulsi Theatre Road is a tough job as it has not been asphalted after being dug up," a reader wrote to BM.

Fix this

New Thippasandra

BBMP must fix this crater near the post office

'Accident prone'

Jeevanbheema Nagar

Many use the main road on a daily basis. But the stretch is in a bad condition, and is dangerous to use.

Third wave: Officials worry over community spread

Many returning after inter-state travel for Christmas and NYE celebrations are testing covid-positive; genome sequencing results are awaited

Pragna L Krupa
pragna.krupa@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With a spike in Omicron cases, officials worry that a community spread is taking place in the city as 149 new cases were found in clusters after random checking of many with no travel history. However, all of them have mild symptoms and have been shifted to institutional isolation.

Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, Randeep D, said that there have been no severe cases reported in Omicron and all of them were mild and have been shifted to institutional isolation.

"To some extent, there are cases with no travel history and we found the variant inside existing clusters along with the Delta variant as well. The infection is spreading at a faster rate like any other metropolitan cities in India. We are seeing a good number of recoveries in Omicron and in earlier cases, only 20 were active and all of them were discharged. In the 149 new cases, all of them were traced and samples of their contacts have also been sent for genome sequence," he said.

Dr Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), said that they are expecting the covid cases to increase and have taken all measures to control them. "We have seen Omicron cases with no travel history and they have not come in contact with any international travellers as well. There is a spread and we are sending all the samples of positive cases in the city for genome sequence. We have increased the number of tests to 70,000 per day and contact tracing has also been intensified. We are implementing covid-appropriate behaviour in a more stringent manner. Of the new Omicron cases, there are a few international travellers who are below 18 years," he said.

He added that these results are from the testing of the last week of December and they are yet to get results of those who have been tested positive post 31st.

A team of PHC health workers and doctors conduct covid inspections at homes

"To some extent, there are cases with no travel history and we found the variant in existing clusters with Delta variant as well

–Randeep D, Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare

A senior official said that of the newly identified Omicron cases, 94 were detected in apartments itself and all measures have been taken to contain the further spread. "Many who had travelled interstate to celebrate the new year, have returned and have tested positive. Their results of genome sequence are awaited and we are expecting the number to go higher. We are already witnessing community spread in the city and many were tested positive during random checking," he said.

"Many international travellers who tested negative on arrival, tested positive after eight days and in between those eight days, they have come in contact with several people. Despite the restrictions, many celebrated Christmas and new year inside apartments and communities where the clusters are now seen," he added.

Weekend curfew: Transport to be limited

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With the recent Covid-19 curbs in the state, Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) plan on limiting their services.

BMTC has suspended its bus services on Saturdays and Sundays (January 8-9, 15-16). However, the services will be termed as essential services and exempted activities will be allowed conditionally. The operation of the bus services for essential services will be limited to 10 per cent in Bengaluru excluding containment zones. These services will also be only operational between 6 am to 10 pm.

Passengers who will be allowed during the weekend curfew are: staff employed in state/ central government, autonomous boards/corporations, all types of courts, police, home guards, civil defence, fire & emergency service personnel, officials and staff employed in government and private hospitals, laboratories, diagnostic centres, patients and their attendants visiting hospitals, laboratories, officials and staff employed in government and private banks/ insurance companies, employees working in print and electronic media.

Only citizens with valid ID proof will be allowed to travel during curfew

Long-distance bus/railway/airport passengers along with their tickets and ID proof, students with their hall ticket, employees working in exempted industries/establishments as per government order.

On these days, the Metro will commence at 08:00 hours from the terminal stations viz. Nagasandra, Silk Institute, Kengeri and Baiyappanahalli and will operate up to 9.00 pm every 20 minutes. The last Metro will be at 9.00 pm from all the terminal stations. This will be effective till the curfew is in force.

"On Mondays to Thursdays, there will be no changes and train services will be available as usual from 5 am to 11 pm with reduced frequency during the last one hour. However, on Fridays, train services will be closed an hour early ie at 10.00 pm instead of 11.00 pm," said BMRCL Chief PRO, Yashawanth Chavan in a press release.

Buses will be operational as per demand on weekends. Passengers coming from the neighbouring states of Kerala, Maharashtra, and Goa will be required to present a negative RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours.

With limited transport services, students yet to sit for the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana Exam (KVPY exam) now want IISC to postpone the exam.

BENGALURU

TPR hits 6.45 per cent in Bengaluru

Covid cases are spiralling with every passing day. On Wednesday, the city's Covid case records hit a new high with 3,605 people testing positive in a single day. The Total Positivity Rate (TPR), which is the yardstick to gauge the infections, saw a sharp spike to 6.45 per cent per day.

Around 10 days back, the TPR was less than 0.5 per cent in the city. Currently, Bengaluru accounts for 85 per cent of Karnataka's cases. The last time Bengaluru reported 3,000 cases were on June 4, 2020. Karnataka Health Minister K Sudhakar said that the cases in the city have now nearly doubled in 24 hours.

30% beds reserved for covid in pvt hospitals

The State Government has asked private hospitals and private medical college hospitals to immediately reserve and keep ready 30 per cent beds in each category, ie, ICU, ICU with Ventilator, HDU/oxygenated and general beds for treatment of Covid-19 patients referred by the Public Health Authorities.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE

In the coming days, that number will go up to 50 per cent beds in each category, ie, ICU, ICU with Ventilator, HDL/Oxygenated and general beds of Private Hospitals to be reserved for treatment of Covid-19 patients referred by the Public Health Authorities, added the Health Minister.

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I Kondaveeti Kokila Valli D/o Venkata Siva Kondaveeti R/o 59/1, Dheeraj Lakefront Apartments, Flat no 402, Dasarahalli main road, Amruthahalli, Bangalore 560092 have changed my name to Samyuktha Kondaveeti

I, K Nirmala Bai D/o K Bheema Rao R/o No45, Harohalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore-64. I have changed my name K Nirmala Bai to Nirmala for all future purposes

I, Vinoda S S/o Shivamurthy R/o No 79, Nagenahalli, Yelahanka, bangalore-64, I have changed my name Vinoda S to Vinod S for all future purposes

I Niharika Kumari W/O, Nishant Kumar R/o No.d 726 Aratt Vivera Apartment, Bolagudda Road, Begur, Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Niharika Kumar

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HARSHA R Gowda, S/o Ramoji Gowda residing at Thimmareddy Layout, Hebbagodi, Anekal Tq., Bangalore Dist. I have lost my 10th CBSE Original marks card while traveling from Hulimangala village to Hebbagodi before 15-12-2021. Police complaint No. 1807/1333/2021.

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Kids get jabbed for DPT without parents' consent

Around 40–50 kids studying in Classes 1 – 3 at a government school suffered a fever and body pain after being inoculated with diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus vaccine

Pragna L Krupa
pragna.krupa@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Panic gripped the parents of a government school in Thanisandra after the school administered DPT vaccine (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus) to children without informing their parents or getting their consent. As the children were down with fever and body pain, worried parents were unable to figure out what caused the illness.

The parents gathered outside the Government Urdu-English Higher Primary School, questioning the authorities about the vaccine as most of them assumed it to be a covid vaccine for which, these children are not yet eligible. From Class one to Class three, about 40 to 50 children were given the vaccine on Tuesday by ASHA workers and health officials.

Imtiaz, a resident of Thanisandra and a carpenter, told BM that his two sons aged five and eight, both in Class 1, were down with high fever and body pain. "My elder son has speech disorder and he kept crying after returning from school. My younger son told me that they gave them an injection in school and both of their left hands were swollen and couldn't lift them. They did not sleep all night and kept crying. We got worried thinking that the school has given them covid vaccine and it has not yet been approved for their age yet.

"I spoke to other parents on Tuesday night who also expressed the same concern and all of us decided to visit the school the next morning. Our elder son has many health complications and we had not given him any vaccine without the doctor's consent. But the school, without even informing us, gave them vaccines. What if something had happened to him and if it reacted?"

Parents were worried over the fact that their children might have been administered the covid vaccine

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Another parent said that many of them did not send their children to school on Wednesday and all the parents went to speak to the principal. "They should have informed us before giving any vaccine. The school acted very negligently and did not even speak to us properly when we went and questioned them. They replied saying that it was all in God's hands and nothing would happen to children," he said.

A healthcare official said that they had informed the school at least two weeks prior to the drive and the school had failed to inform parents.

"It is not our fault and we had planned for this and kept the management informed. Children do get fever and body pain when they take the vaccine and will be all right after two days," he said. The principal of the government school apologized to the parents for not informing them about the vaccine drive and convinced them to disperse.

> **"My younger son told me that they gave them an injection in school and both of their left hands were swollen and couldn't lift them. They did not sleep all night and kept crying** – Imtiaz, a parent

Tooth troubles for lovesick tuskers

Prakash VL
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If you thought only humans suffered from tooth decay and dental problems, you're wrong. Many elephants are also being affected by cavities and losing their tusks, sometimes for the sake of 'love'.

Elephants are identified with their long tusks. But some elephants lost one or both the tusks. In Dubare elephant camp, there are four elephants turned into single tusks for various reasons.

When two fangs grow beyond, then they are considered tusks. In Asia, only male elephants have tusks, but in Africa, female elephants are also known to have tusks. Among the 31 elephants in Dubare, Ekadanta, Indra, Vali, and Rama elephants have only one tusk.

Mahouts say elephants also suffer from tooth decay. When they find it at an early age, they treat it with neem oil and other herbal medicines. If not treated, the tusk will fall when they are playing in mud or for other reasons. No new tusk will grow.

While fighting, elephants also lose their tusks as they use their tusks as their weapon. They feel severe pain when their tusks are cut while fighting. Tusks in elephants are used for many purposes. They use tusks for digging the earth. Sometimes they use the tusks for breaking peel the wood. The tusks are also used for marking the way on the trees where they travel. Like humans, elephants also have left-handers.

Love fights

Most of the elephants lost their tusks in their love fights. With only three female elephants for 31 male elephants in the camp, the ratio is very disproportionate. Out of the tree, one is younger and another female elephant sent to Anekadu forest. So, when elephants fight for female elephants, they often end up lose their tusks.

Senior mahout G K Dobi says: "When tusks decay in elephants, they will fall when they are fighting. When it falls from the root, it will not grow. When cut in the middle, there will be a chance of growing."

Forest Department's veterinary doctor Dr Mujeeb says: "Some elephants were born with only one tusk. Most of the elephants in our camp were with only one tusk when we caught them."

IN BRIEF

Alleged fox bite kills 22 cattle in Belagavi

As many as 22 cattle died after allegedly being bitten by wild fox at Venkatapura village in Mudalagi taluk of Belagavi district. The incident came to light on Wednesday. Since December 26 last year, cows, buffaloes and calves have been dying mysteriously after coming back from grazing.

The villagers informed the Animal Husbandry Department, following which, the Deputy Director of Belagavi, AK Chandrashekar, visited the village to inspect. According to preliminary investigations, it has come to light that the deaths occurred due to fox bite.

The Animal Husbandry Department has arranged for anti-rabies vaccination for all cattle in Venkatapura and surrounding villages, while the caretakers are keeping a vigil on their cattle.

Veterinary doctors said that the viscera of the dead cattle have been sent to laboratories in Bengaluru and Ooty to ascertain the exact cause of death. – IANS

Cops book 7 in alleged human sacrifice case

The Karnataka police have booked seven persons in connection with the death of a Class 10 student in a case of suspected human sacrifice. R Chetan, Mysuru Superintendent of Police (SP), said on Wednesday that the suspects are being questioned regarding the suspicious death of a youth identified as Mahesh. His body was found on January 2 near Halepura lake in Nanjangud taluk.

His father Siddaraju had lodged a complaint and suspected it to be a case of human sacrifice, he added.

The investigation has been initiated based on evidence collected so far and the statements given by the locals, he said.

The father alleged that the accused -- Hemmaragala Srinivas, Raju, Naveen and Muddu -- practised black magic and allegedly took his son to the lake and killed him on a full moon night.

Big win for slain cop's son

The Karnataka High Court (HC) has issued a notice to the State Government for not providing employment on humanitarian grounds to the son of a police constable, who was killed by late forest brigand Veerappan 30 years ago.

The Police Department has assured the deceased policeman's family that one of their family members would be given employment on compassionate grounds. However, till date, the promises remained as a mere lip service.

The slain policeman's wife had submitted a memorandum to Mysuru SP and the son, R Nandish filed a petition before the HC. – IANS

 # No pills after Covaxin jab
No painkillers or paracetamol recommended after Covaxin jab: Bharat Biotech

'Exponential rise in no. of Covid cases'

Omicron is predominant circulating strain, says Health Ministry highlighting that R value of variant is quite high

#NEW DELHI

India is seeing an exponential rise in the number of coronavirus cases, which is believed to be driven by its Omicron variant, the Centre said on Wednesday, while highlighting that the country's R naught value, which indicates the spread of the infection, is 2.69, higher than the 1.69 recorded during the peak of the pandemic's second wave.

Addressing a press conference here, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said the spike in the number of Covid cases is being witnessed in cities and "the Omicron variant is the predominant circulating strain". Mass gatherings need to be avoided to lower the speed of the infection spread, he stressed.

"We are now facing an exponential rise in (the number of) COVID-19 cases and we believe that largely, it is being driven by Omicron, particularly so in the western parts of our country and even particularly so in larger cities from where we have more data," NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul said.

On December 30, the case positivity rate was 1.1 per cent and the next day, it was 1.3 per cent and now, the country is reporting a positivity rate of five per cent, he said, adding that similarly, there were 13,000 Covid cases on December 30 and the number went up to 58,000 on Tuesday.

"Clearly, this is an expanding pandemic. The R nought value is 2.69. This is higher than the 1.69 we saw when the second wave of the pandemic was at its peak," Paul said.

He, however, added that the hospitalisation rates are relatively low. It is close to 3.7 per cent in Delhi and five per cent in Mumbai. "That is the early input we have. Last year and in 2020, the hospitalisation rate was close to 20 per cent," Paul said. —PTI

Medical workers check temperature of an infant, whose mother is suffering from covid at a covid-19 care centre, in New Delhi on Wednesday

First death due to Omicron variant

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday confirmed the first death due to the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 in India.

While addressing a press briefing, the Joint Secretary of Union Health Ministry Lav Agarwal said, "Technically it is Omicron related death in Rajasthan. He was an elderly person. The person is reported to have co-morbidities, like diabetes among others."

According to the Union Health Ministry, 108 deaths have been reported so far globally.

Health Ministry guidelines for home isolation

- Patients with mild/asymptomatic cases will be given a designated control room contact number at the district/subdistrict level to help with guidance for testing and management of illness
- Such cases should have the required facility at their residence for self-isolation and for quarantining. Ideally, the patient should have a vaccinated caregiver on a 24x7 basis
- Elderly patients aged more than 60 years and those with co-morbid conditions will only be allowed home isolation after proper evaluation. Immunocompromised patients are not recommended for home isolation and will also only be allowed home isolation after proper evaluation

Manage Covid-19 at home

- Patients must isolate themselves from other household members and stay in one room
- The room should be well-ventilated and windows should be kept open
- Patients should at all times use triple layer medical masks and discard them after 8 hrs of use
- Masks should be discarded after being cut into pieces and put in a paper bag for at least 72 hrs
- Take rest and drink lots of fluids and also follow respiratory etiquette
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water
- Do not share personal items with other people in the house
- Self-monitor your blood oxygen saturation with a oximeter

PM's convoy stranded on flyover in Punjab; Centre faults state govt

Farmers stage a demonstration to block Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cavalcade, in Ferozepur, on Wednesday

#Ferozepur

In a "major security lapse", Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur on Wednesday after which he returned from poll-bound Punjab without attending any event, including a rally.

The Union Home Ministry directed the state government to file an immediate report, saying it did not ensure the required deployment, while Home Minister Amit Shah said that such dereliction of the security procedure during the prime minister's visit is totally unacceptable and accountability will be fixed.

The incident triggered a major political row as the BJP alleged the ruling Congress in Punjab "tried to physically harm" the prime minister, while other parties too attacked the state government over the law and order issue.

On the defensive, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi at a press conference denied there was any security lapse or political motive behind it and said his government was ready for an inquiry.

In Delhi, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala hit back at the BJP, claiming Prime Minister Modi skipped the rally in Ferozepur as there were no crowds and asked the saffron party to introspect. Channi too claimed that the turnout was low at the Ferozepur rally.

Modi who landed in Bathinda had to take the road route to the National Martyrs Memorial at Hussainiwala in Ferozepurb because of inclement weather.

When the convoy reached near village Piareana on Ferozepur-Moga road, around 30 km away from the National Martyrs Memorial in Hussainiwala, some protestors blocked the road following which the PM's cavalcade was halted for almost 15-20 minutes on a flyover.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Ferozepur) Inderbir Singh said around 100 farmers suddenly arrived on the spot and blocked the road.

A decision was taken to take the prime minister's convoy back to Bathinda airport after protestors started gathering on the other side of the flyover which could pose a huge security risk, he said. Protesting farmers had blocked roads at several other places including Tarn Taran, Faridkot and Amritsar.

In the statement, the home ministry said that in view of the contingency plan the Punjab government has to deploy additional security to secure any movement by road, which were clearly not deployed.

"After this security lapse, it was decided to head back to Bathinda airport," the statement said

The ministry also asked the Punjab government to fix responsibility for the lapse and take strict action, the statement said. — PTI

No snag or sabotage, bad weather caused chopper crash

#New Delhi

No technical snag or sabotage and bad weather leading to a phenomenon called Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT) is believed to have been identified as the prime reason for the crash of the IAF helicopter near Coonoor that killed CDS Gen Bipin Rawat and 13 others, people familiar with the development said on Wednesday.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and Air Marshal Manvendra Singh who headed the tri-service investigation into the crash apprised Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the findings of the probe on Wednesday.

The people cited above said the investigators have ruled out any possibility of technical snag or sabotage in the crash of the Russian-origin twin-engine Mi-17V5 helicopter that was flying from Sulur airbase to Wellington on December 8.

According to experts, the CFIT refers to a phenomenon when an aircraft under control is piloted into the ground, water or other terrains largely due to bad weather or pilot error.

The CFIT generally takes place in bad weather conditions or when a flight is landing.

There is no official comment on the probe report either by the Indian Air Force or by the defence ministry.

According to the IATA (International Air Transport Association), CFIT refers to accidents in which there was a collision with terrain, water, or obstacle, without indication of loss of control of the aircraft.

"The critical distinction in these types of accidents is the fact that the aircraft is under the control of the flight crew," it said. — PTI

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am 26 years old and my girlfriend is 22. Each time we try to have oral sex, my girlfriend isn't in the mood for it. She says she didn't feel anything when I went down on her, and she also does not enjoy it when I use fingers to penetrate her. Also, she feels these don't emulate the feeling of having intercourse.
She barely has the urge to participate in foreplay and we're both unsatisfied. What could be the reason for her depleting sex life? I am worried about our future and want to correct any medical issues at this stage.
It is not necessary for everyone to enjoy sex exactly in the same way. Why not ask her what she finds pleasurable. Perhaps, trying a new sex position could help.

2 I am a 34-year-old married man. I had a good sex life till a week ago. But all of a sudden I am having difficulty in getting a proper erection and maintaining it. I am under a lot of stress and it is also straining my relationship. What can I do to revive my sexual strength and ability to perform in bed?
It is evident that your anxiety and tension are resulting in your problems. Learn to separate your sexual life from your daily problems. Start walking, learn yoga and meditation and pay more attention to the family.

3 I am 21 years old and have been masturbating for some time. I want to know if this is a bad habit?
It isn't if you do it only when you are sexually excited. It is a helpful method to learn about intercourse.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
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Superfoods for your hair

Different ingredients you should pick for different concerns

Ria Bhatia
mybangaloremirror
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From dust and dirt to extensive heat sans any care, our hair goes through so much. The result? A surge in common hair concerns like dandruff, dryness, split ends, itchy scalp and more. While there are a bunch of haircare products that can help us maintain our mane, they can get a bit too overwhelming or perhaps monotonous for our hair, thereby not providing the desired results. This could be a sign to give these market-bought products a break and walk into your kitchen for the sake of good hair. Wondering which ingredient to ditch and pick in the kitchen? Here's what you should definitely be picking for different concerns.

Aloe Vera For Itchy Scalp
Aloe vera is one gem of an ingredient. With soothing and cooling properties, aloe vera can provide relief in case of an itchy and irritated scalp. Plus the vitamin trio of aloe vera (A, C and E) contribute to the cell turnover which means it can also free the scalp from any itch-causing dead skin.
Moreover, aloe vera also has anti-inflammatory properties, so it penetrates to the tissue level and soothes the scalp, combating itchiness.

Coconut Oil For Damage
We say coconut oil for damage because the ingredient has a very holistic approach towards bettering the hair. It has not just one or two but sundry benefits for the hair that include promoting scalp health, getting thicker and softer hair, dandruff reduction, combating split ends, achieving stronger locks and minimising protein loss. In this way, the ingredient reverses damage from the roots (follicles) to the tips.

Eggs For Lack Of Nutrients
Lack of nutrients is a major concern when it comes to hair these days.
Improper diet and lifestyle choices have led to a major deficit of much-needed nutrients for hair. This deficit then accelerates a glut of issues like brittle and breakage-prone tresses, weak follicles, hair fall and more. Simply give an egg (with the yolk) a light whisk and mix it with ½ a cup of water and 1 tablespoon of olive oil.

Avocado For Dehydration And Dryness
If dryness has gotten the better of your hair, avocados are what they need.
Avocados are a powerhouse of vitamins B and E, omega 3 and good fatty acids that can replenish dry and dull hair. They're one of the best sources of naturally-derived moisture and nourishment that lock in lasting softness, keeping dryness and frizziness at bay. Simply mash some ripe avocado with olive or almond oil and apply all over your mane.

Curd For Lifeless & Lustreless Locks
Rich in nutrients, curd is a blessing for your hair. It will literally endow you with the hair of your dreams. It helps with dandruff, itchiness, hair growth, but most importantly, softens the hair and adds shine and lustre to your locks. You can simply apply some chilled curd (in the morning, when the sun's out) on your mane and enjoy the cooling as well as the hair-bettering benefits.

Lemon For Dandruff & Oily Scalp
Lemons are great for the scalp, oily and dandruff-prone ones in particular. Why? Because they're loaded with citric acid that ensures a balanced pH level is maintained. This, in turn, alleviates issues like oiliness, greasiness, flat hair and dandruff. You can apply some lemon juice on your mane as a pre-shampoo treatment or blend it with other hair-loving ingredients like coconut oil for added benefits.

MIRRORLIGHTS

What's All the Hype Over Hyaluronic acid?

The spotlight is on hyaluronic acid this season, quite naturally, as this versatile molecule can be utilized topically as creams and serums, injected into the skin as dermal fillers, skin boosters, and can be used as an ingredient in micro-infusions. It is a molecule that can store a thousand times its weight in water and is situated naturally in the deeper layers of our skin, joints, and eyes, where it provides hydration and lubrication.

Hyaluronic acid, when used as a cream or gel, acts as a 'humectant' and provides plump and moisturized skin; but, if not used under conditions of high humidity, it is known to notoriously draw water from the deeper layers of the skin and accelerate trans epidermal water loss, which can cause dryness. To counteract this, hyaluronic acid is frequently coupled with an occlusive substance such as glycerin, which hydrates the skin and forms a barrier layer over it to prevent water loss.

Also, when applied topically to the skin, hyaluronic acid molecules are known to remain superficially with limited penetration; however, the latest skin booster or skin-conditioning injectables allow dermatologists to inject hyaluronic acid into the deeper layers of the skin (dermis), providing plump, hydrated skin from the inside out, compensating for this. In most cases, these injectables only require a single treatment session, with benefits lasting up to nine months. They're suitable for the face, neck, and hands.

Dermal fillers, which are different from skin-conditioning gels in that they are used to enhance a specific area of the face such as the lips, tear trough, are made up of hyaluronic acid. It's also utilized in small doses in micro infusions with other skin-loving ingredients for a more hydrating glow. Indeed, this molecule has become quite a show-stealer in the world of skincare due to its diverse applications; nonetheless, it is advisable to have your dermatologist select the appropriate hyaluronic acid formulation for your skin needs.

—Dr. Janet Alexander Castelino, DermaZeal

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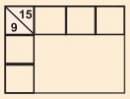
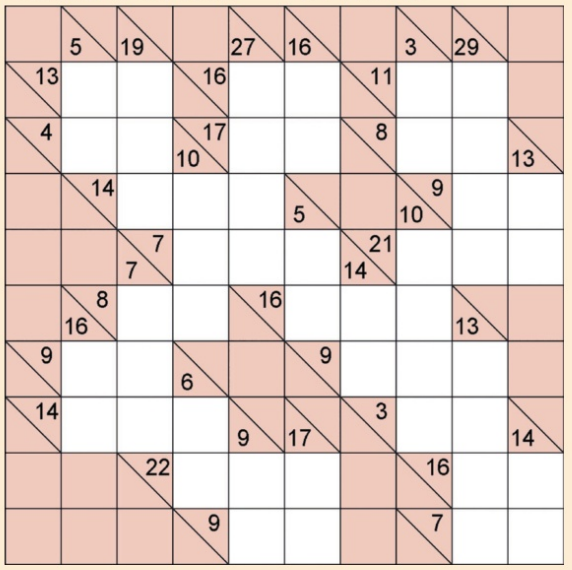
Kakuro

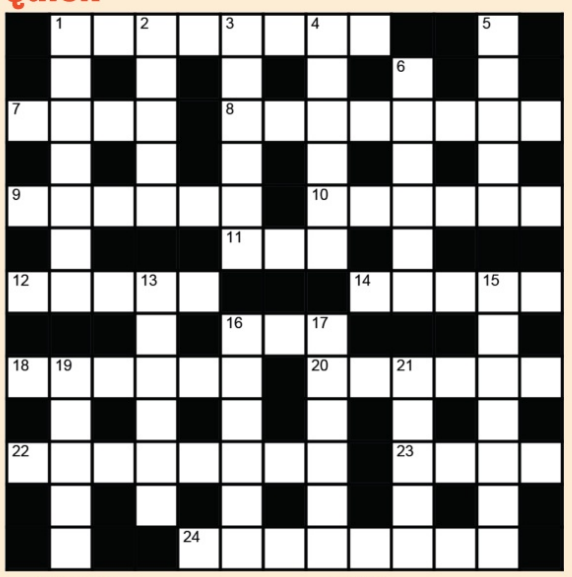
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Instructional (8)
7 Branch (4)
8 The food for the Gods (8)
9 Portuguese island group in the Atlantic (6)
10 At rear (6)
11 Eden denizen (3)
12 Oracles (5)
14 Salad ingredient? (5)
16 A fierce sea monster (3)
18 Economizes (6)
20 A break or gap (6)
22 Wagers (8)
23 Lean (4)
24 Distilled perfumes (8)

DOWN

1 A light shower (7)
2 Exclude (5)
3 Group of words (6)
4 Take a drink (6)
5 Make parallel (5)
6 Not tref (6)
13 Distant (6)
15 Examines (7)
16 Willow twigs for basket-making (6)
17 Innocent (6)
19 Gold mines 100 kms out of the city (5)
21 Garret (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS G

JZ HJVVJVX JGV'O WPWN-ROUJVX, HUR TI OUWR FWWQ GEINW?

Linemaro

Stand still so I can pick you up

Mindchow

The best advice is this: Don't take advice and don't give advice

Joke of the day

Leave note: Please excuse Lesli from being absent yesterday. She had diahre dyrea direathe the shits

Loop

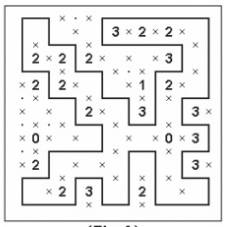
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

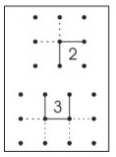
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

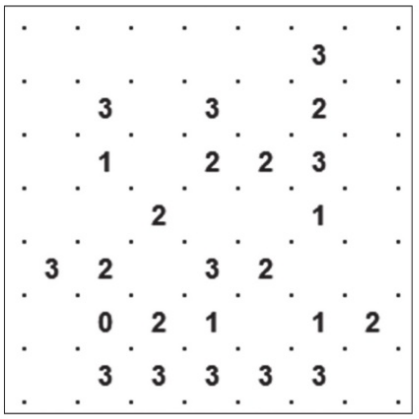
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



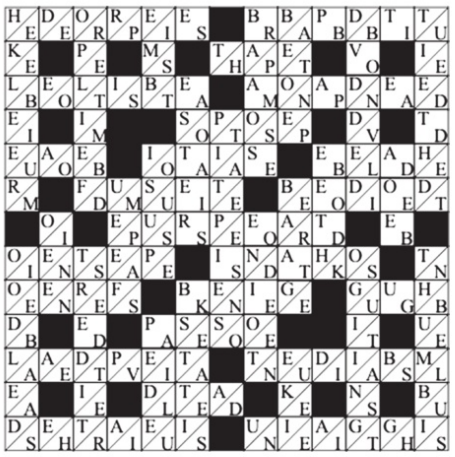
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



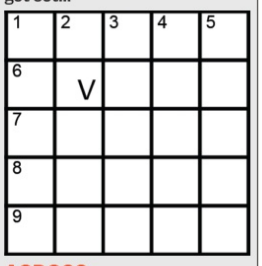
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

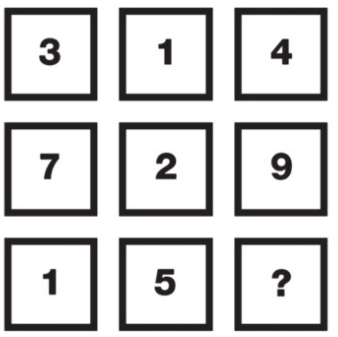
1 Crops; 6 Value;
7 Boner; 8 It lee;
9 To Big

DOWN

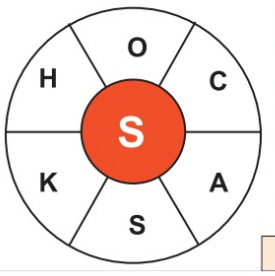
1 Be cub; 2 Olio V;
3 GI err; 4 An opt;
5 Leets

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1			2		9	
2					9	5		
9			6	4				7
					7	6	1	
	2			3			5	
	3	9	4					
7				9	8			5
		5	1					2
	1		7			3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2

1 3 8 8

Medium = 12

3 3 5 6

Hard = 28

4 6 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

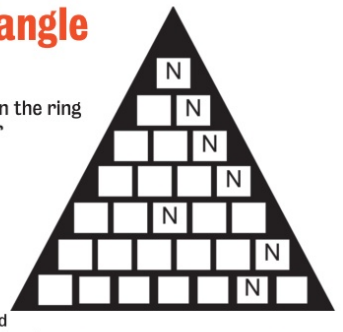
Differences: 1. Saw is shorter. 2. Arm is not showing. 3. Button is lower. 4. Zipper is added. 5. Boy is taller. 6. Branch is moved

Riddler

Insert a word from group B into a word from group A to form a larger word. (Try & Eat = Treaty) Group A: Hock, Shed, Rue, Hen, Wing Group B: Cat, Eight, Itch, Even, Add

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Article
3 Threw one's hat in the ring
4 Be a breadwinner
5 Roam
6 Get back
7 Having on



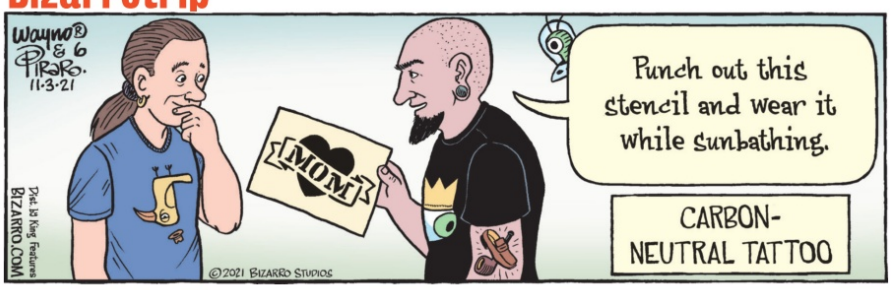
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

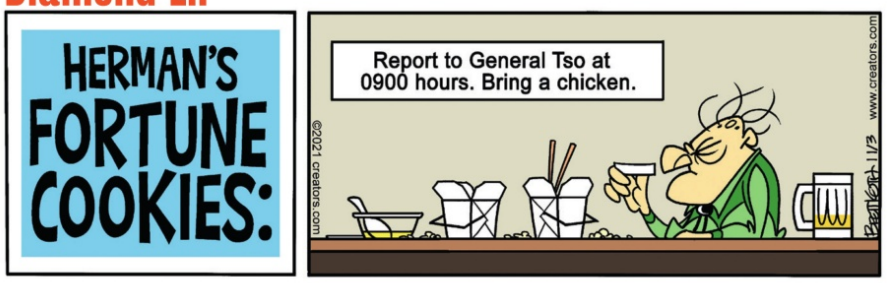
COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

WHAT TIME IS CURTAIN FOR "THE SECRET GARDEN"?
WAIT, YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING?
I'LL BE PLAYING SO MANY PARTS, YOU WON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!
THAT'S THE FUN OF IT! IT'LL BE LIKE A "WHERE'S WALDO?" OF THE THEATER.
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

CHASE... I NEED TO BORROW YOUR SUVS...
FOR A SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH THAT WILL BE HAILED AS A MIRACLE!
I'M GOING TO NEED MORE THAN THAT.
10-22
BATTUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy in social get-togethers, you may also meet some old friends, your network might be strong which may give you benefits in the near future on the work front. Natives related to export and import, glamour, artefacts may do better. Student are likely to perform well today in terms of study. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may have good support from your family members. You may also have some expansion in your family business during these days which will increase social status of your family. You may also plan to expand your family in terms of a new child, which may improve bonding between family members. Students may apply for some scholarships for higher studies.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be more spiritual; your destiny may be with you; you may expect good gains in your past investments. Bonding with the boss is likely to be improved which may give you benefits in terms of promotions. You may also hear some good news from your sibling. You are advised to control your harsh speaking in love and personal life; it may affect your personal and love life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be a victim of sleeplessness which may make you lazy. You may also become careless; it may affect your inner strength negatively. You are likely to be nervous at work, which may affect your ongoing project. You are advised to avoid making investments in dead stuff. You are advised to avoid spicy food; you may expect a bad digestive system. You should avoid rash driving.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you; you may feel harmony in domestic life; you may enjoy some romantic moments with the spouse. Your family may support you to take some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in business or work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, a positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at every stage. Your performance may be good at work; you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job-seekers are likely to get a suitable job in their domain. Lovebirds may enjoy dating.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may have fixed results. it is advised to not expect more from anyone around you, it may make disappoint you. Today, you may go through self-exploration and self-analysis, which may allow you to analyse yourself. After that, you may feel confident and be able to accept challenges around you.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, dissatisfaction may make you upset. You may not be able to enjoy a single moment. You may have lack of patience which may affect your way of working. Silly mistakes may happen in your way of working. You may also visit some religious place for seeking peace. You are advised to practice meditation or yoga.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you will be blessed by the moon; your destiny is likely be with you. Today you may be more energetic and focused in your work. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success. Your colleagues may help you. You are likely to go for short work-related trips. Some good news may come from your sibling.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be busy in family matters. You may take some important decisions on the domestic front. You should avoid arguments in personal life matters. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. By late evening, things may be under control. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in business.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, messy situations will be under control; you may feel peace in your mind.
You may be able to make a proper balance between expenditure and earnings, which may increase financial health. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking; it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their future. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may face health issues; last night's sleeplessness may you mentally tired. You may not have focus towards your day-to-day work. You may feel laziness which may affect your commitments. It is advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tour. You are also advised to avoid spending money on worthless stuff.

KIDZONE

Myra Abdullah, 7 Years, Vidyashilp Academy

Shravya KG, 8 Years, New Cambridge English School

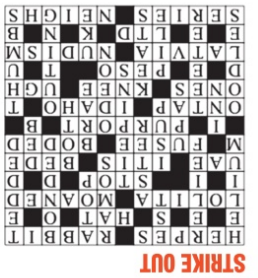
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
16÷4(5)÷2(5) = 4(5)÷2(5)
20÷2(5) = 10(5) = 50

RIDDLER
1. Haddock,
2. Scathed,
3. Revenue,
4. Heighten,
5. Witching

STRIKE OUT



QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
6. On each row, add the values of the left hand and central hand and central boxes to give the value in the right hand box.

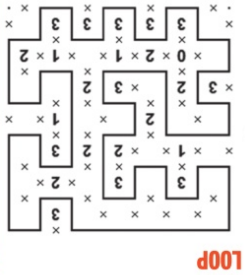
SUDOKU

8	1	2	7	5	4	3	9	6
4	9	5	1	6	3	8	7	2
7	6	3	2	9	8	1	4	5
6	3	9	4	1	5	7	2	8
1	2	7	8	3	6	9	5	4
5	8	4	9	2	7	6	1	3
9	5	8	6	4	1	2	3	7
2	4	6	3	7	9	5	8	1
3	7	1	5	8	2	4	9	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Ran,
Earn, Range,
Regain,
Wearing.

GO FIGURE
8 – 8 – 1 + 3 = 2
Easy
3 + 6 – 5 x 3 = 12
Medium
4 – 6 + 9 x 4 = 28
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO

BULL'S EYE
cash, HASSOCK, sack,
sash, shack, shock,
soak, sock

QUOTE UNCODE
If winning isn't everything, why do they keep score?

FAST FIVE

C	O	R	P	S
U	V	E	A	L
B	O	R	N	E
E	L	I	T	E
B	I	G	O	T

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 # Sonu Nigam, family tests positive for covid
Singer Sonu Nigam on Wednesday tested positive for covid-19. Nigam said he, his wife Madhurima and son Nevaan tested positive for the virus in Dubai where the family is under home quarantine

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DP drapes

The queen looks her best in sarees. We pick some of the most eye-catching ones

Deepika Padukone turned a year older on Wednesday. The actress who is known for her brilliant performances on the big screen is also a fashion enthusiast. From her red carpet looks, airport outfits to casual outings in the city, she knows how to make our hearts skip a beat. She is known for her desi looks and takes the internet by storm whenever she posts a picture in a saree. On her special day, we decided to take a look at her best saree moments over the years!

Her love for silk sarees
Deepika Padukone wore a gorgeous red silk saree for her friend's wedding. Reports suggested that the red saree Deepika wore was gifted to her by none other than veteran actress Rekha. She gifted her a saree post the release of her film 'Bajirao Mastani'. The actress finished the look with a golden choker and studs.

Shine and shimmer
Deepika Padukone stunned in a white mesh saree that consisted of detailed pearl toned floral work. The saree had a simple sequin opaline border. She paired the elegant saree with a shimmery silver sleeveless blouse with a plunging neckline. She paired it with silver stone earrings. The actress went for a dewy base makeup look with smokey eyes, and highlighted cheekbones. She opted for nude lipstick and tied her hair back in a bun.

Making a statement
For a special episode of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 13' with Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone wore a stunning yellow pleated blouse and a floral pleated saree. She finished the look with contrasting blue earrings. Her make-up was minimal, a neutral matte lip shade and tied her hair in a low bun.

Stripes for the days
Deepika Padukone made heads turn in a bright candy stripe saree that she paired with a sexy backless full sleeves blouse with golden sequins around the wrist. She finished the look with a signature Sabyasachi belt and put her hair up in a bun for the night.

Royal vibes
Deepika exuded royal vibes in a bright pink saree for Akash Ambani and Shloka Mehta's wedding. She wore a pearl choker which was intricately crusted with a ruby pendant. She layered it with another long rani-haar pearl necklace. Her choker added a fresh touch to her look.

'Radhe Shyam' release postponed indefinitely

Putting an end to the speculation around the release date of the much-anticipated Prabhas-Pooja Hegde-starrer 'Radhe Shyam', the film's producers have officially announced its postponement. The film was to hit the big screen on January 14.

Taking to social media platforms, the makers said: "We have to postpone the release of our film 'Radhe Shyam' due to the ongoing Covid situation. Our sincere thanks to all the fans for your unconditional love and support. We will see you in the cinemas soon!"

Apologising for the uncertainty over its release, the makers added: "We have been trying our best for the past few days, but considering the growing cases of the Omicron variant, it looks like we will have to wait for our labour of love to get to the big screens."

The statement added: ""Radhe Shyam' is a story about love vs destiny and we are sure that your love will help us rise over these tough times together. Will see you in the cinemas soon!! 'Radhe Shyam'."

Directed by Radha Krishna Kumar, 'Radhe Shyam' is a pan-India movie with Pooja Hedge playing the love interest of Prabhas.

—IANS

Prashanth Neel, the most sought after director in Tollywood

Prashanth Neel, who directed the blockbuster movie KGF, is turning out to be the most sought after director in the Telugu film industry. Recently, Junior NTR confirmed he is working with Prashanth Neel for his next movie in an interview. Now, many big Telugu stars are lining up to work with him. After KGF 2, Hombale films continued with Prashanth Neel for a project with Prabhas. After Bahubali, Prabhas is now one of the most bankable stars in Indian cinema. After the epic Bahubali, it was a natural choice for Prabhas to opt to work with Prashanth Neel, who created a bang in Indian cinema with the massive hit KGF-Chapter 1. Now Neel is finalising his Telugu debut Salaar with Prabhas.

Tollywood is brimming with talented directors who have successfully extended the limits of the industry with blockbusters. Rajamouli is a leading director who set the trend of pan-India successes. His work inspired KGF to release all over India. After Bahubali, the whole film fraternity is eagerly waiting for his next film RRR. Sukumar extended his wings with Pushpa, the Rise. Ram Gopal Verma, Puri Jagannadh made blockbuster hits beyond Tollywood. Now Prashanth Neel has joined this bandwagon.

It was said that Junior NTR liked Neel's Ugramm and offered to work with him. It will be Junior NTR's 31st movie. Neel proved himself as a strong storyteller with Ugramm, but KGF propelled him into national fame. Neel also met with the mega family. There are also rumours milling about him directing Ram Charan's movie after Junior NTR.

—Prakash VL